



City on a Hill Press

Campus United

Unions Will Never Be Defeated



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Cover Photo by Lonnie Arnold

City on a Hill is produced by and for UCSC students. Our primary goal is to report and analyze issues affecting the student population and the Santa Cruz community. We also serve to watchdog the politics of the UC administration—While we endeavor to present multiple sides of a story we realize our own outlooks influence our presentation of the news.

—The CHP collective is dedicated to covering underreported events, ideas, and voices. Our desks are devoted to certain topics: campus, multicultural, women's, queer, city, music, and arts.

—CHP is a campus paper, but it also provides space for Santa Cruz residents to present their views and interact with the campus community. Ideally, CHP's pages will serve as an arena for debate, challenge, and ultimately, change.

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UC UNIONS FIGHT BACK



PHOTO BY LONNIE ARNOLD

UC UNIONS HAVE NOTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT.

University Puts Education at Risk

Lonnie Arnold
Arts Desk Writer

Nine floors up in a hall with no bathroom, Dr. Kathleen O'Connor, a disabled UC Davis

lecturer, confined to her wheelchair held office hours.

Ten o' clock every Sunday night 40, students depart from lecturer, provost, and columnist Conn Hallinan's home at Kresge College.

Twenty-two years at UC

Berkeley as a Celtic studies lecturer, Kathryn Klar's full-time salary is \$48,000; 14 percent more than the average public school teacher.

These are just a few of the thousands of lecturers at the University of California that give to their students twice as much as the University provides for them.

Due to unfair labor practices and low wages, charges University officials deny, lecturers and clerical workers at the University of California have decided to make their grievances public. Students angry over the treatment of lecturers and the University's lack of concern for education are rallying in support of a strike at UC Santa Cruz and five other campuses, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Davis, Riverside, Berkeley and Irvine, on Oct. 14 and 15.

"We have the power. We need to show our power," Matt Jones, chair of UCSC's student government, Student Union Assembly (SUA) told *City on a Hill Press* (CHP).

The Issues

According to Roxanne Hamilton, a writing lecturer at UCSC, the majority of students do not know the difference between a lecturer and a professor. "We are somehow invisible to the University because of this, and

they are using it to their advantage," Hamilton told CHP. "Lecturers must undergo a rigorous review process in which we must be deemed 'excellent' in order to be hired to teach another year to three years. No other member of the faculty has to undergo a lifelong review process to ensure their teaching quality remains high."

Besides little job security, lecturers make less than tenured and tenure-track colleagues. However, lecturers are equally qualified and hold doctorates. According to the UC Office of the President web site, pre-six year lecturers in the UC system make \$43,081 on average. Post-six year lecturers make \$51,183. Comparatively, tenure-track assistant professors earn an average of \$63,718, and tenured professors make \$109,214.

"It is important students recognize that this isn't just about money," Max Bell Alper, a spokesperson for Students for Labor Solidarity (SLS), a student collective organized to educate students on labor issues, told CHP. "The biggest issue is job security and for CUE it is job safety." Lecturers system wide have been without a contract for two years. Clerical workers have been bargaining for a year.

Yonatan Katznelson, an economics lecturer and AFT member, told CHP, "The University needs

a basic change in attitude. They are treating us like labor is disposable. They are basically saying undergraduate education is disposable."

Kathryn Klar, a lecturer at UC Berkeley for 22 years, considers UC a prestigious place to work. "But prestige is cheap and doesn't pay the bills," Klar told CHP. "It's UC's shame that the administration so callously takes advantage of the dedication and professionalism of its lecturers."

SLS is encouraging student involvement. "Our short term goal is to inform and mobilize students for the lecturers and Coalition of Campus Employees [CUE] strike," Alper told CHP. "The long-term goal is to develop more of a solidarity between labor unions and students. We'd like to see a community developed between the two groups, because their lives are very much intertwined."

In coalition with University Labor United, SLS organized a solidarity rally last week, held in front of McHenry Library at UCSC, where Chancellor MRC Greenwood's office is located. Approximately 250 people participated in a heated forum. Among the participants were students and staff.

John Laird, the democratic nominee for California's 27th District State Assembly attended



PHOTO BY MELISSA WENER

THE THEME OF THE LECTURER AND UNION RALLY OUTSIDE MC HENRY LAST WEEK WAS UNIVERSITY, STOP, CLOWNING AROUND. UNION MEMBERS DRESSED UP AS CLOWNS.

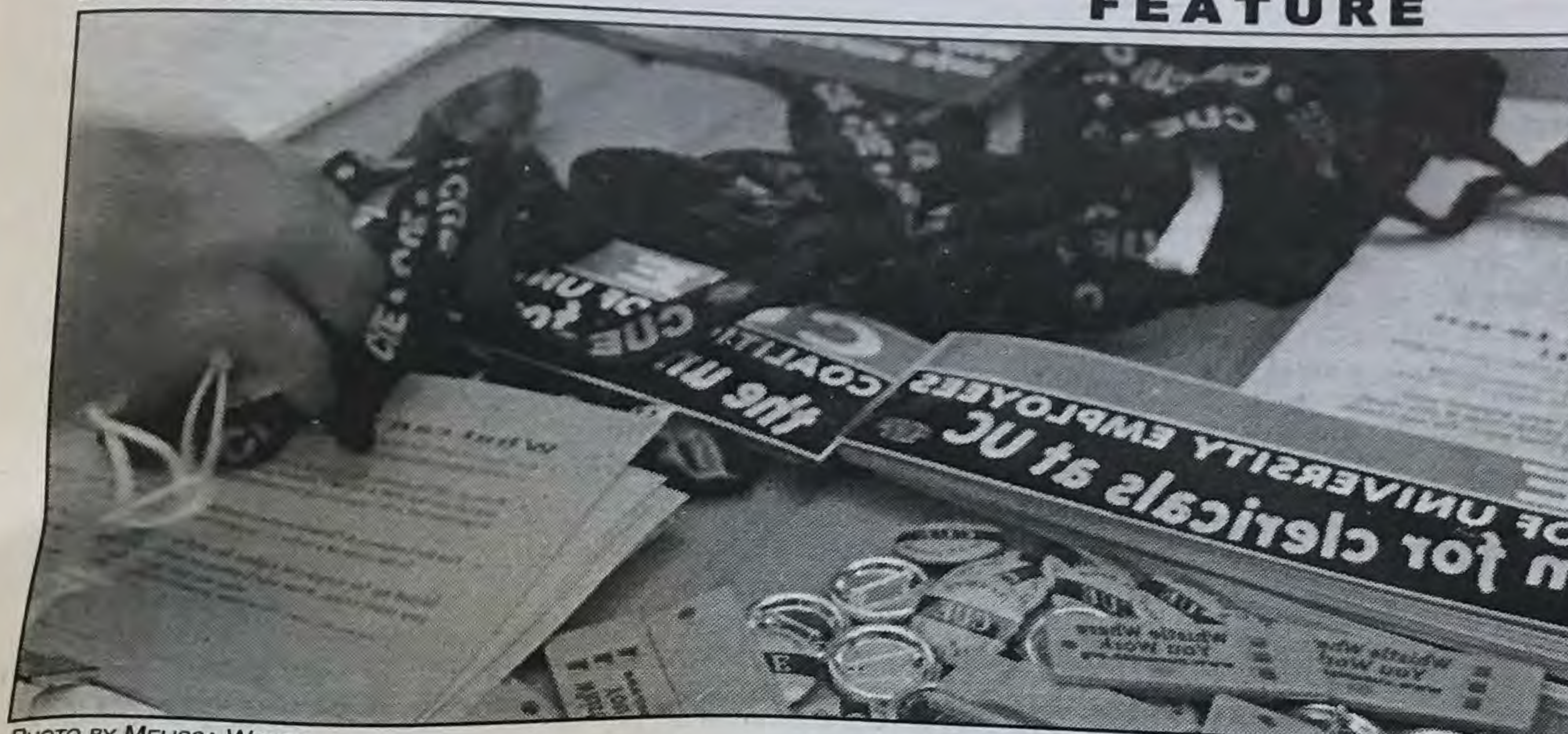


PHOTO BY MELISSA WENER

PAMPHLETS HANDED OUT TO STUDENTS AND STAFF AT RALLY.

the rally and spoke in support of the lecturers. "If there is ever a time when something locally can change matters globally, it's right here," Laird said. "Decisions are made at the state level and the Chancellor can only pass on the pressure," Laird said. Forty-two members of the State Assembly applied similar pressure last month in a letter sent to UC President Richard Atkinson expressing their concern over allegations that UC is misappropriating public funds earmarked for UC employee salaries.

"Continued labor dissension forces us to consider active participation

in reviewing employment practices at the University," the letter stated. "We have to consider our responsibility to ensure that public funds are being used as intended."

According to Mike Rotkin, a member of the UCSC bargaining unit and vice president of the University of California Council of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), there may be some truth to this accusation. "Last year, the University didn't spend 66 million dollars of the money it was allotted by legislature for instruction." The University of California did not return phone calls

inquiring about this issue.

Students on all eight UC campuses are voicing the same concerns in their support for the lecturers. Jones, a second-year UCSC student, said, "This is a common struggle between everyone on campus, and there are issues of class going on here. In my interaction with people on this campus, class isn't taken into consideration, but it is something that is institutionalized in the University of California."

Tim Fitzmaurice, a writing lecturer, said he feels the administration bows to the reputation of the institution. "The institution comes first, and they look at it as their gift to California," Fitzmaurice told *CHP*. Jones feels this is because, "the Regents have no investments in the school except their money." Fitzmaurice told *CHP*, "But institutions are composed of human beings."

According to Lopez, a member of Students Supporting Lecturers (SSL) at UC Davis, the University is only concerned with appearance.

Lopez got involved with SSL when Dr. Kathleen O'Connor, UCD's only Islamicist, was terminated after Sept. 11, a time of increased need for teachers in the field of Islam.

Another four lecturers at UCD were fired last spring just prior to their six-year review. After the sixth year, a lecturer receives some job security—the guarantee of one class a year for three years, so long as there's need and funding for the course.

In a meeting between the deans of UCD and SSL following the firing, Lopez said Elizabeth Langland, dean for the Division of Humanities, Arts and

Cultural Studies, clearly articulated that the University needs researchers, not teachers, for its students. "Parents want their children taught — not researched at," Lopez told *CHP*.

Currently, the University claims it is giving the lecturers' and clericals' union the best wage proposals it can, given the current budget deficit.

According to Richard C. Atkinson, president of the University of California, California legislation has provided the UC with a \$3.2 billion budget for 2002-03, three percent less than in 2001-02.

The Support

To support the lecturers at UCSC, a teach-in/concert scheduled for Oct. 11, was canceled due to the reorganization of Student Organization, Advising, and Resources (SOAR), which supports student-initiated events and programs.

According to Alper, a representative of SLS, SOAR currently does not have enough resources or funds to support an event of this size. "This is really hurting campus activism, because students aren't being given an opportunity to react to these events," Alper said. "The goal of this event was pragmatic and ideological. We wanted to teach students how the strike fits into the larger political context and also inform them of what they should and can do on the day of the strike."

SLS, with the help of other student organizations, such as Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A.), Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center (GLBT), as well as the graduate union—

United Auto Workers' (UAW) has planned a rally for Thursday, Oct. 10, at the Bay Tree Bookstore, to replace the canceled teach-in/concert.

Until the strike, these organizations, along with many other student coalitions, plan to solicit the student body's support for the lecturers and clerical workers through flyers, public service announcements, t-shirts, and banners.

Hamilton, writing lecturer, told *CHP*, "We can't make a powerful enough showing without student support."

Student Strike Pledges, enabling students to provide their support in a variety of ways, are being distributed campus-wide. According to Farnaz Fatemi, a writing lecturer, the volume collected will be an indication of how much support the students are giving lecturers. SLS plans to collect all pledges and deliver them in black garbage bags to Chancellor Greenwood.

Rotkin, a community studies lecturer, said, "There is a lot of student mobilization. I have been on this campus for 33 years and I've never seen this much rapid movement to get involved in an issue."

Students such as Sabina Gonzalez, a member of SUA and a strike supporter, are making an effort to support all UCSC workers. Gonzalez told *CHP*, "Y para toda la raza mexicana y centroamericana, que trabajan aqui, cuenten con nuestro apoyo. Estamos con ustedes siempre, en Octubre, Noviembre, Diciembre y todo el tiempo." Translated, Gonzalez said, "For all the Mexican and Central American workers on this campus, you can count on our support. We are here for you always, be it October, November, or December."

Lopez, a student at UCD, believes the student voice can make a difference. Lopez told *CHP*, "It's a tragic issue—but it is one which can be made better, if the students get up and say, 'No! We count! Our views count! We are the University!'"

Martin Smith, a CUE Member and SOAR employee has a similar view. "We need to stand here today, unified in anger and solidarity," said Smith at the pre-strike rally. "Unions united. We'll never be defeated."

Support the strikers. Write to your state legislature. Letter found on page 19. Cut it out and send it in.

HOW TO SUPPORT UC UNIONS

FILL OUT STUDENT STRIKE PLEDGE
<http://members.cruzi>

o
com/~sasqi

JOIN SLS
-DISTRIBUTE AND POST FLYERS
-MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN CLASSES
Contact Max Alper at awkward@repla.com

JOIN SNACKS FOR STRIKERS
Contact Sherri @ 420-0626, e-mail: newsieny@aol.com

SUPPORT CUE
Contact info: 420-0258
e-mail: organizer@cue.santacruz.org

ATTEND RALLY AT BOOKSTORE TODAY:
@12PM

WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS

ATTEND THE STRIKE OCT. 14 AND 15
@ THE BASE OF CAMPUS

DON'T CROSS THE PICKET LINE

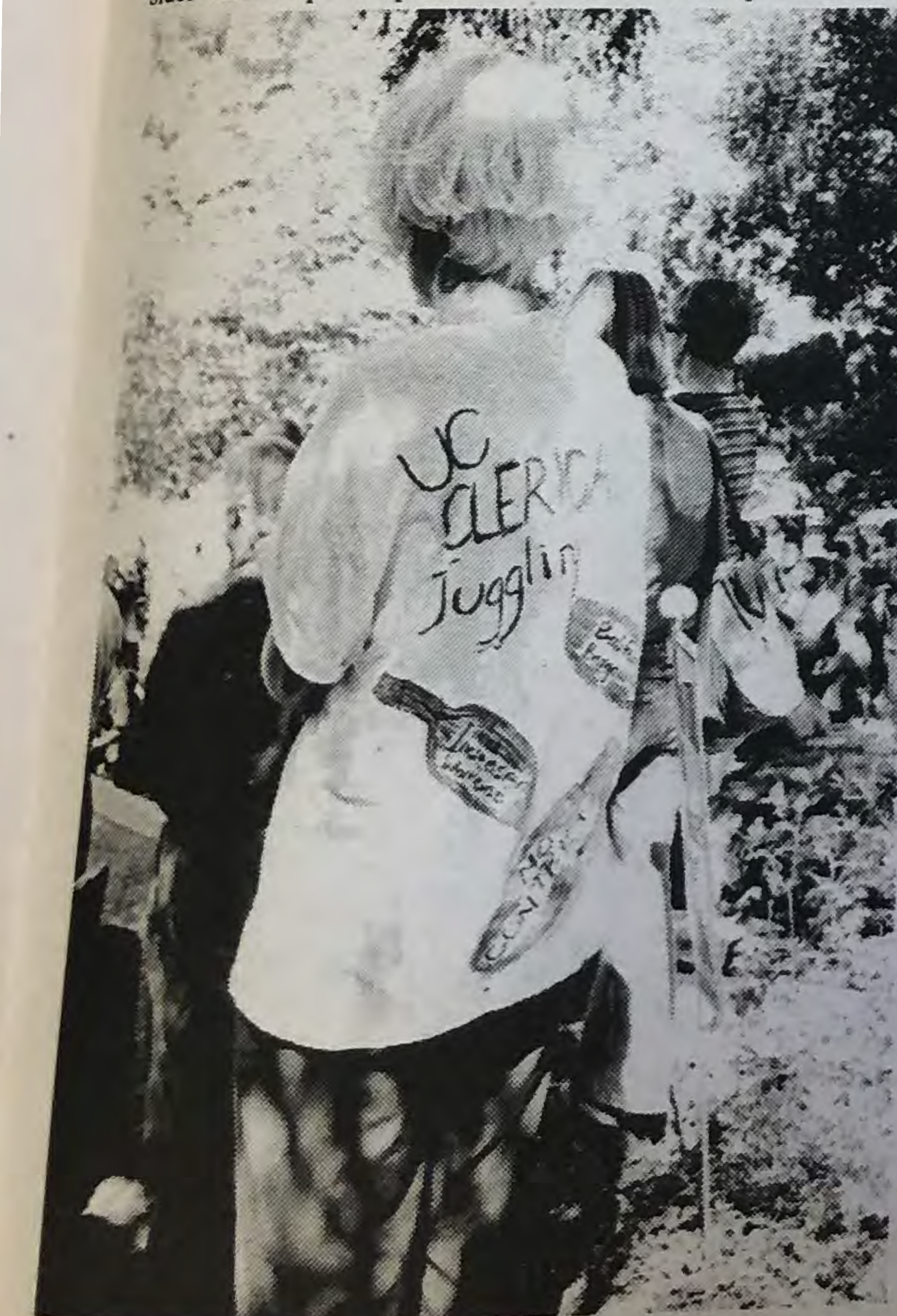


PHOTO BY LONNIE ARNOLD

CLERICAL WORKER AT RALLY, WEARS SHIRT EXPRESSING DIFFICULTYS WORKING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA